



## Warm Springs Rural Citizen Advisory Board

**DRAFT:** Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Warm Springs Rural Citizen Advisory Board held May 17, 2017 at the Palomino Auxiliary Fire Station 6015 Ironwood, Warm Springs, NV.

### 1. \*CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

**Members Present:** Thomas Prentice, Robert (Bob) Gunn, Dennis Buck, Gregory Gilbert, James Bradbery. A quorum was determined.

### 2. \*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Tom Prentice led the pledge.

### 3. \*PUBLIC COMMENT –

Charles Lieman spoke about the recent fire and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's refusal of entry to the fire fighters the fire, but that refusal wasn't from this station. TM never toned us out. Both BLM and reservation station out there responded to the fire. TMFPD wouldn't have administration responsibility over that area. They would not have told anyone not to go through the gate. The Federal Government took over that fire.

Katherine Snedigar spoke about the fire. She said on that day, people showed up to the gate, which is a private property gate. They were waiting to cut the gate to put out a one acre fire which end up being an 18,000 acre fire.

Charles Moore, Truckee Meadow Fire Protection District Chief; He said the incident commander battalion chief was the first on the fire. He said the fire was 9,000-10,000 feet in elevation; there was no way to access that fire. It had to be fought from the air due to the difficulty to access. He said his agency never refused anybody to go through a gate.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 17, 2017 –** Gregory Gilbert moved to approved the agenda for the regular meeting of May 17, 2017. Thomas Prentice seconded the approval agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 –** Bob Gunn moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 21, 2016. Gregory Gilbert moved to second the approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### 7. \*COMMUNITY UPDATES

**A. \*Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) – Fire Chief Charles Moore** or another representative from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District will provide a summary of the District's activities including recent calls for service, emergency operations, volunteer firefighter program, cooperative aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, and an update to fire services in the area. For more information contact (775) 326-6000 or via the webpage at [www.tmfpd.us](http://www.tmfpd.us) (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

**Defensible space:** Charlie Moore said he is looking for a homeowner who needs to create defensible space; he wants to take before and after photos to create a media event to show how defensible space can be created. He said we need to call attention to defensible space near homes. He said they are working with UNR in this program. Please contact Chief Moore if you have a property that needs defensible space.

**Wild Fire:** Wild fire season is upon us. We expect robust of cheatgrass cure. We might have 3 crops of cheatgrass this year. Wild fire season will get a late start due to the wet season. The volunteers are dedicated and stay prepared with equipment ready to go.

Katherine asked about operators driving the trucks. A fire station volunteer said 3 operators are certified. He said he isn't trained on structure fires. He said we rely on station 17 for structure fires. Katherine said her home had been saved by the volunteer fire fighter.

**B. \*Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) –** A representative of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office may be available (unless on a call for service) to address public safety questions and concerns including speeding and reckless use of recreational vehicles. For more information call (775) 328-3001 or online at [www.washoesherriff.com](http://www.washoesherriff.com) (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

Russ Pedersen said he oversees the operational side of the house. This is a private community who watches out for each other. Summer is coming. He said help us prepare for spring/summer and let us know if anything is happening out here. Katherine said there was a house out here for rent, but it wasn't a legit rental. It was a scam.

**C. \*University of Nevada Cooperative Extension –** Northern Area Director, Frank Flavin will provide an update on programs and services offered by Cooperative Extension and will be available to address questions from the board and public. For more information about UNR Cooperative Extension, visit [www.unce.unr.edu](http://www.unce.unr.edu) (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

- Frank Flavin said Cooperative Extension is a collaborative program between UNR, Federal, State, local government. The County is trying to get some funding.
- The Cooperative Extensions funding has gone down. We provide agriculture, natural resources, energy development, family and personal improvement programs. Cooperative Extension has been operating since 1916.
- He said they do a lot of work in community development. The flagship program is 4-H – keeping youth out of trouble with agricultural education. The *Living with Fire Program*, fire adapted communities program – collaboration among several agencies (federal, state, local, and insurance companies).
- Wildfire awareness month is May.
- Radon education program; educate homeowners of radon, naturally occurring gas, high in Nevada. 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause to cancer.
- Master Gardner programs – trained volunteers trained in soil and pest management to consult homeowners. Horticulture work on landscaping, grow your own Nevada – gardens in springs and fall program.
- He said they have agriculture programs. We don't have credit classes, they are community classes.
- A public member asked about butchering cattle. Frank said we hosted a program with Wolf Pack meats. He said we are under the agricultural, biochemical umbrella, and when we lost funding, we lost our livestock resources. We can have that collaboration again.

**D. \*Palomino Valley General Improvement District (PVGID) Update -** PVGID Board Chair Larry Johnson or a representative from the GID will provide an update on local roads. For more information about PVGID, visit: [www.pvgid.com](http://www.pvgid.com). (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

**Larry Johnson gave an update:**

- We were hit hard during the floods; several roads were wiped out and impassable; got temporary workers to repair the roads.
- Large flood events larger than '95, '05.
- 6-7 roads were damage; some people were stranded. Area was included in the Governor's declaration for federal disaster relief through FEMA. He toured the roads for FEMA. Categorized the damage into four different categories.
- He said they are planning for future storms and flooding. New culverts and inlets are being installed. He spoke about cape seal, treatments, culverts, grading and repairs on various sections of the GID.
- Anyone requesting maintenance, we rely on the community to notify the GID is in the need of maintenance. Check the website for the repairs.
- He said it appears as if we will receive FEMA funding; the economy continues to grows and receive a piece from sales tax.

- Bob Gunn said the citizens appreciate the GID response. Asked about servicing Amy road from Pony Springs, south. Bob said there were cuts created by the flooding. It needs to be graded. Larry encouraged him a maintenance request at [palvalgid@gmail.com](mailto:palvalgid@gmail.com). It typically gets taken care of within a week.
- Katherine Snedigar asked about the Whiskey Spring – Larry said from Amy to Right Hand Canyon will be resurfaced. 1.9 miles of Whiskey Springs and 1.4 miles on Axe Handle – \$230,000 contract. Approved construction – asphalt patches, pot holes.
- He encouraged everyone to attend the Palomino Valley General Improvement District Board of Trustees meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. Please attend.

## **8. \*PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS**

**A.\*Washoe County Commissioner** – Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Commissioner Herman can be reached at (775) 501-0002 or via email at [jherman@washoecounty.us](mailto:jherman@washoecounty.us) (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)

### **Commissioner Jeanne Herman gave an update:**

- Waste Management: She said they met with them prior to the Board of County Commissioners meeting. It was a 4-1 vote at the Health Department meeting. The representative from Waste Management said they bought heavy trucks which have difficulty in the rural areas. She suggests cutting off the rural area from the agreement and we can do what we use to do in the old days; choose our own trash service. A public member said years ago, there was a community dumpster. Rancho Haven and Silver Knolls want to opt out. We won't have control over our costs. Commissioner Herman said there are 3 smaller companies – we can check them out and see what they can do for us. It's tough on people out here. Sparks residents pay \$52 quarterly. She said her bill has already increased. A lot of people don't want it out here.
- Legislature is almost over;
- Working on budgets
- Katherine Snedigar said she is concerned about fire protection for our homes, and it will become issues with insurance companies. Commissioner Herman said she knows realtors having issues selling the homes. She said it's troubling. Commissioner Herman said she is working on things; she will provide an update. Renia Smith said earlier this year or last year, the fire chief said if you lived within 5 miles of the fire station, you can get a special insurance rate. Chuck Lieman spoke about the structure fire training. He said we only have 4 operational people, function of volunteers. It's easy to do the training for the brush fire, but the training schedule for structure fire, it's the same thing as the professional fire fighters go through. It's a big different between structure and brush fire. You have explosive items in the house. TMFPD isn't going to let untrained people go into a structure. 144 hours of structure fire. Chuck Lauer said we don't have to go anywhere. If there is a fire out here, we aren't required to do anything. We are volunteers. Chuck Lieman said 98% of emergency calls are for EMS, not for fires. Katherine Snedigar said we had a fully functioning fire department in the 1990s.
- Dennis Buck asked about FEMA assistance out here. Commissioner Herman said FEMA is assisting with the road repairs. No assistances for private people. There are a lot of people who are still flooded.

**B. \*County Update** – A representative from the Office of the County Manager will provide an update on County services. Staff will be available to answer questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact [cab@washoecounty.us](mailto:cab@washoecounty.us) or (775) 328- 2000. To sign up to receive email updates from the County visit [www.washoecounty.us/cmail](http://www.washoecounty.us/cmail). (This item is for information only and no action will be taken by the CAB).

### **Al Rogers gave an update:**

- January and February flood events qualified this area for FEMA assistance. However, the personal property damages didn't qualify for FEMA. We are anticipating the cost of the two events to be \$8 million. We will recuperate 75% of those costs. We will be thankful for that. Repairs have begun, and will continue into next year.
- Working on budgets and will go before the Board of County Commission next Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. \$600 million budget; proposing flat budget. Department and services – the County Manager doesn't want any new programs until the dust settles and can be determined later this year.

- Legislature: On Friday, any bills in play have to come out of the second committee house. A lot happens in the last 10 days. Tracking 200 bills including a bill on GID, water, and any with impacts on our county.
- We would like to host a district forum for this area. Spanish Springs is hosting one on Wednesday with representatives from NDOT, RTC. District forum in Rancho Haven. They provide venue and meeting formality is more of a one on one conversation.
- Washoe311 – Non-emergency inquires via email and phone. You will be able to reach a call center to get you in contact with the correct service and department. Katherine Snedigar asked if you can still contact staff directly. Al Rogers said yes; the Washoe311 is a resource for those who don't know how to contact a department or staff directly.
- Al Rogers introduced Thor Dyson from NDOT, District Engineer. He described the different NDOT districts jurisdictions. He spoke about the storms and flood events. He spoke about his overtime budget – his overtime budget \$200,000 including emergencies and construction in 6 month period in 2016. In 2017, the first two weeks, he spend \$259,000 just in district 2. He thanked the community for their patience. Pete is responsible for 395 north of spaghetti bowl, and Pyramid hwy. He is a hard worker and gets after issues quickly. He encourages everyone to call NDOT district office if it's on the NDOT jurisdiction. You are the eyes and ears. Bob Gunn spoke about snow storms on Pyramid hwy. He said it isn't cleared soon enough; he would like to see it cleared as it snows and before the sun melts it. Thor said for the past 5-6 years, there are 300 positions in his district with 45-50 vacancies. He said he brings on 40 people for this district, and only filled 17. He said we hire temporary plow drivers who only make \$12 an hour. There are many vacated positions. He said they have to follow the snow plan. He said they do a pre-treatment, anti-icing efforts, and do a salt brine treatment to delay the icepack from forming. He said they check the temperature of the pavement. He said we avoid putting the sand down, but we will. Tow plows are massive plow 2 ½ lanes on the freeway – plow and sand. Thor said we focus on the state right-a-way.
- Chuck Lauer asked where the GID and NDOT jurisdiction. NDOT put in the turn lane on Ironwood. They re-graveled the turn lane, and there is gravel all over the intersection and it's dangerous. Cheryl she said it's too narrow and you are forced to drive on the dirt.
- Chuck Lieman commended them for the job they did south of Fallon. Thor said Lahonton was a puddle and now it needs to be drained. He spoke about the draining process and water movement. Thor encouraged everyone to use the website.
- Tom prentice asked a plan to expand Pyramid and widen down by Calle De La Plata. Thor said not at this time; he said long range it could be possible. He said the developers have projected wrong. He said we are doing a project at the intersection of Calle De La Plata.
- Jim Bradbery asked about brush and lighting fires on Pyramid. He asked if it will be mowed. Thor said yes, they will get the wingbat and mow down the weeds. Thor said he will talk to Pete to schedule it.
- Chuck Lieman asked if there is a way to emphasize the speed limits. Everyone speed is too slow. Renia asked what prompted the speed change. Thor said they received a lot of complaints. Thor said when they receive requests, they look at accident reports and community requests. A NDOT department is dedicated to speed study analysis.
- Cheryl Haskel asked about the trip counters. Thor said those monitor speeds, how many drivers in specific times of the day to plan the future.

**9.\*CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS –** No items were discussed.

**10.\*PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Katherine Snedigar thanked the board and people who came out to speak to the community.

**11. ADJOURNMENT –** The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Misty Moga, Administrative Recorder Services

Number of CAB members present: 5

Number of Public Present: 6

Presence of Elected Officials: 1

Number of staff present: 1